

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic network system adapted to ~~facilitate the detection of cost levers that affect a cost structure of a target company and compilation of appropriate~~generate cost reduction strategies for ~~a~~ the target company, ~~said the~~ the network system comprising:

a cost lever analysis tool ~~that~~ adapted to (1) ~~receives~~ receive financial data inputs regarding the target company, ~~(2) and calculate~~ calculates normalized diagnostic information regarding the cost structure of ~~the said~~ target company based on the financial data inputs, ~~(3) displays the normalized diagnostic information~~, ~~(4) receives cost levers based on the normalized diagnostic information~~, and ~~(5) transmits the cost levers; said diagnostic information being usable to identify various problematic cost centers and cost levers for addressing said problematic cost centers of the target company; and~~

a cost reduction strategy tool that receives the cost levers, ~~the said~~ strategy tool including:

a generation module that generates a cost reduction strategy for one or more of the cost levers;

~~a business capability recommendation linking module and an overview module, said linking module correlating that~~

~~correlates the cost reduction strategy various business-~~
~~capabilities with a plurality of possible corresponding ones~~
~~of the cost levers; and~~
~~an implementation said overview module that generates~~
~~implementation providing information related to~~
~~implementing the cost reduction strategy; and relevant to~~
~~each said business capability, said relevant information~~
~~being useful to the understand, assess and implement a~~
~~particular capability recommendation for the target company;~~
~~wherein said cost levers identified by said cost lever analysis tool are~~
~~correlated by said cost reduction strategy tool to one or more~~
~~appropriate business capabilities.~~
~~an output module that outputs signals representing the cost reduction~~
~~strategy and the implementation information.~~

2 (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 1, wherein
~~said relevant the implementation information is organized in an overview, and each~~
~~overview includes at least one of may contain information types selected from the group~~
~~consisting of case studies, implementation plans, integration implications, and sample~~
~~benefit and impact forecasts, and combinations thereof.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 2, wherein ~~said the implementation information comprises overviews comprise hyperlinked-~~
~~overview documents.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 3, wherein ~~said overview the~~ documents can be cross-linked to each other ~~associated overviews-~~
~~for related or similar business capabilities.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of case studies are correlated with each cost reduction strategy ~~business-~~
~~capability.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 5, wherein the implementation information includes at least one business capability overview for a
~~particular business capability contains~~ case studies derived from more than one industry.

7. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 1, wherein the output module generates a ~~said cost reduction strategy tool can produce a~~ business-
~~capability implementation plan cost-reduction strategy~~ template for the target company concerning a selected business capability recommendation upon a user selecting said recommendation.

8. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 7, wherein ~~said the cost reduction strategy business capability implementation plan template includes the can include implementation information useful for the target company in applying a recommended business capability.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 8, wherein ~~said the implementation information includes at least one of is of types selected from the group consisting of economic impacts, strategy goal summaries, expected implementation schedules and plans, projected cost considerations, and projected projecting key benefits.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said the cost lever analysis tool further comprises a calculation module that calculates for calculating a total return to shareholders using a calculated return on invested capital, a calculated the weighted average cost of capital, a calculated organic growth, and a calculated merger and acquisition growth based on the financial input data.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said the cost lever analysis tool generates is adapted to produce summary reports, the summary reports including summarizing at least one of metrics and or diagnostic ratios of the target company relevant to identifying cost drivers and cost levers in the target company.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 11, wherein ~~said the summary~~ reports include charts or diagrams comparing the ~~said-metrics or said~~ or the diagnostic ratios to baseline industry information.

13. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 12, wherein ~~said the~~ baseline industry information comprises ~~values of said~~ metrics or diagnostic ratios pertaining to industry competitors of the ~~said~~-target company.

14. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 12, wherein ~~said the summary~~ reports include shareholder return graphs, the ~~said~~-shareholder return graphs comparing a growth compound annual growth rate to a spread for the target company and industry peers of the ~~said~~-target company.

15. (Currently Amended) The network system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said at least one of the cost lever analysis tool, the cost reduction strategy tool, and the~~ output module ~~tools are~~ is located on a server electronically accessible by remote users.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with instructions which, when executed on a processor, perform a method embodying a ~~computer program, the computer program adapted to perform operations to detect cost-levers that affect a cost-structure of a target company and to facilitate the compilation of appropriate cost reduction strategies for the target company, said operations~~ comprising:

receiving financial data inputs regarding a the target company;
~~calculating performing financial calculations on said financial data to~~
~~produce~~ normalized diagnostic information regarding the cost
structure of the said target company based on the financial data
inputs;
~~displaying reporting said the normalized~~ diagnostic information; ~~for review~~
~~by a user; and~~
receiving cost levers of the target company based on the normalized
diagnostic information;
generating a cost reduction strategy for one or more of the cost levers;
~~identification of one or more problematic cost centers of the~~
~~target company and one or more cost levers for addressing said~~
~~problematic cost centers of the target company~~;
correlating the a plurality of business capabilities cost reduction strategy
with corresponding ones of the a plurality of possible cost levers to
~~generate a business capabilities comprising cost saving measures~~
~~that can be incorporated into cost reduction plans for suitable target~~
~~companies, and each said business capability being correlated with~~
~~one or more possible cost levers, wherein a particular correlated~~
~~business capability is recommended as producing cost reduction~~
~~benefits through linked cost levers to which said particular~~
~~correlated business capability is correlated~~;
~~providing information relevant to each said business capability, said~~

~~relevant information being useful to understand, assess and
implement a particular capability recommendation for the target
company.~~

generating implementation information related to implementing the cost
reduction strategy; and
outputting signals representing the cost reduction strategy and the
implementation information.

17 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 16, wherein the method further comprises ~~comprising generating a cost reduction strategy producing a business capability implementation plan template for the target company concerning a selected business capability recommendation upon a user selecting said recommendation.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein the cost reduction strategy ~~said business capability implementation plan template includes~~ can include the ~~implementation information useful for the target company in applying a recommended business capability.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 18, wherein the said implementation information includes at least one of ~~is of types selected from the group consisting of economic impacts, strategy goal~~

summaries, expected implementation schedules and plans, projected cost considerations, and projected ~~projecting~~ key benefits.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 16, wherein the said implementation ~~relevant information is organized in an overview for each business capability, and each overview includes at least one of may contain information types selected from the group consisting of case studies, implementation plans, integration implications, and sample benefit and impact forecasts, and combinations thereof.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 20, wherein the said overviews comprise implementation information comprises ~~hyperlinked overview documents.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 21, wherein the said overview documents can be cross-linked to each other ~~associated overviews for related or similar business capabilities.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 20, wherein a plurality of case studies are correlated with the each cost reduction strategy. ~~business capability.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 23, wherein the implementation information at least one business capability overview for a particular business capability ~~includes~~ contains case studies derived from more than one industry.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 16, wherein the calculating normalized diagnostic information comprises said performing of said financial calculations comprises calculating a total return to shareholders using a calculated return on invested capital, calculating a weighted average cost of capital metric, calculating an organic growth metric, and calculating a merger and acquisition growth metric.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 16, wherein the displaying said reporting of the normalized said diagnostic information comprises generating outputting summary reports, the summary reports including summarizing at least one of metrics or ~~and diagnostic ratios relevant of to identifying cost drivers and cost levers in the target company.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 26, wherein the summary said reports include charts or diagrams comparing thesaid metrics or the said diagnostic ratios to baseline industry information.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 27, wherein the ~~said~~ baseline industry information comprises ~~values of the said~~ metrics or the diagnostic ratios pertaining to industry competitors of the ~~said~~ target company.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 27, wherein the summary ~~said~~ reports include shareholder return graphs, the ~~said~~ shareholder return graphs comparing a growth compound annual growth rate to a spread for the target company and industry peers of the ~~said~~ target company.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 16, wherein the ~~said~~ computer-readable storage medium is located on a network accessible to users to perform the method ~~operations~~, and wherein the ~~said~~ financial data inputs are ~~is~~ received electronically by the ~~said~~ network from a remote electronic financial data repository.